

UNCLASSIFIED

THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM'S PROVINCE NAMES (U)

The names of most of the provinces of the Republic of Vietnam are Sino-Vietnamese, and can therefore be identified with fixed Chinese characters. Only one provincial name, Go Cong, is vernacular Vietnamese. Three others (Darlac, Kontum, and Pleiku) are non-Vietnamese names derived from ethnic minority languages spoken in the highland provinces.

Most Sino-Vietnamese provincial names consist of two Chinese characters selected for their power to influence the destiny of the territory being named. Because such names are created on the basis of astrological criteria, their component characters have auspicious values but the two members of the compounds need not complement one another as a meaningful whole.

Con Son, once a province, no longer is one; Phu Quoc never has been a province although there has been talk of separating it from Kien Giang. Despite this, Con Son and Phu Quoc are included in the following list because of their unique cartographic and territorial features as islands.

The phonetic pronunciation hints in parentheses are approximations only.

An Giang (AHN JYAHNG)	Peaceful Stream	Kontum (KONTOOH)	Swamp Settlement
An Xuyen (AHN SYEN)	Peaceful River	Lam Dong (LAHM DONG)	Forested Plain
Ba Xuyen (BAH SYEN)	Rolling River	Long An (LONG AHN)	Peaceful Prosperity
Bac Lieu (BAHK LYEH)	Distant North	Long Khanh (LONG KAHN)	Prosperous Well-Being
Bien Hoa (BYEN HWAH)	Peaceful Shore	Ninh Thuan (NEEN TWAHN)	Tranquil Order
Binh Dinh (BEAN DEAN)	Peaceful Calm	Phong Dinh (PONG ZEEN)	Opulent Abode
Binh Duong (BEAN ZWONG)	Peaceful Dawn	Phu Bon (POOH BON)	Source of Wealth
Binh Long (BEAN LONG)	Peaceful Dragon	Phu Yen (POOH YEN)	Peaceful Wealth
Binh Thuan (BEAN TWAHN)	Peaceful Order	Phu Quoc (POOH KWOCK)	Opulent Land
Binh Tuy (BEAN TUY)	Tranquil Peace	Phuoc Long (PWOCK LONG)	Prosperous Fortune
Chau Doc (CHOW DOCK)	Administered Territory	Phuoc Thanh (PWOCK TAHN)	Perfect Fortune
Chuong Thien (CHYONG TYEN)	Excellent Rampart	Phuoc Tuy (PWOCK TUY)	Tranquil Fortune
Con Son (KAUN SAUN)	Beetle Mountain	Pleiku (PLAYKOO)	Forest of the Ox
Darlac (DAHRLAHK)	Lake Da K'lac	Quang Duc (KWAHNG DUKE)	Great Virtue
Dinh Tuong (DEAN TWONG)	Calm Well-Being	Quang Nam (KWAHNG NAHM)	Great South
Gia Dinh (GYAH DEAN)	Auspicious Calm	Quang Ngai (KWAHNG NYAI)	Great Justice
Go Cong (GOH KONG)	Duke's Hill	Quang Tin (KWAHNG TEEN)	Great Faith
Hau Nghia (HOW NYAH)	Divine Justice	Quang Tri (KWAHNG CHEE)	Great Administration
Khanh Hoa (KAHN HWAH)	Peaceful Well-Being	Tay Ninh (TIE NEEN)	Peaceful West
Kien Giang (KYEN JYAHNG)	Everlasting River	Thua Thien (TWAH TYEN)	Mandate of Heaven
Kien Hoa (KYEN HWAH)	Established Peace	Tuyen Duc (TYEN DUKE)	Proclaimed Virtue
Kien Phong (KYEN PONG)	Established Opulence	Vinh Binh (VEEN BEAN)	Everlasting Peace
Kien Tuong (KYEN TWONG)	Established Well-Being	Vinh Long (VEEN LONG)	Everlasting Prosperity